

2024 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

LOUDOUN COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

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LOUDOUN COUNTY FACT SHEET



Loudoun County encompasses a 520-square-mile area in the Piedmont section of Northern Virginia and is bordered by the Blue Ridge Mountains from the northwest and the Potomac River from the northeast. Between 2010 and 2020, Loudoun was one of the fastest growing counties in the nation and ranked #1 fastest growing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The county is home to several of the nation's leading technology-oriented businesses.

Population – 2024 estimate	447,081
2020 Census	420,959
2010 Census	312,311
2000 Census	169,599
Population growth 2000-2020	148%
Population growth 2010-2020	35%
Population – 2025 forecast	453,526
Density (persons per square mile) - 2020 estimate	816.2
Median Age – 2022	38.1 years
Student population - September 2022	82,223
Student population - September 2000	34,589
Student population growth 2000 – 2020	156%
Student population forecast – September 2024	83,061
Bond ratings	
• Fitch	AAA
• Moody's	Aaa
• Standard & Poor's	AAA
Total households	104,583 (2010) 137,442 (2020)
Household size average – 2020 Census	3.05 (Loudoun) 2.66 (DC MSA)
Real property tax rate – CY 2023	\$0.875 per \$100 assessed value
Machinery and tools tax rate – CY 2023	\$2.75 per \$100 assessed value
Commercial & industrial (% of total base) – 2023 estimate	22.9%
Assessed value of taxable real property – 2023 estimate	\$129.98 billion
Personal property tax rate (general) – CY 2023	\$4.15 per \$100 assessed value
State reimbursement for personal property taxes	\$48.1 million
Assessed value of personal property – 2023 estimate	\$22.9. billion
FY 2024 Adopted School System operating budget	\$1.668 billion
FY 2024 Adopted General Government operating budget	\$840.5 million
School System employees – FY 2024 adopted	13,403.20 FTE
General Government employees – FY 2024 adopted	4,812.83 FTE
Adopted Capital Improvement Program (FY 2023 – FY 2028)	\$3.492 billion
Percentage of 6-Yr CIP total expenditures debt financed	60.9%
FY 2024 Debt service expenditures	\$250.99 million
FY 2024 Debt per capita*	\$4,785
FY 2024 Debt to estimated value of taxable property*	1.42%
FY 2024 Debt to per capita income*	4.59%
FY 2024 Debt service to governmental fund expenditures*	6.97%
Schools	18 High Schools, 17 Middle Schools, 61 Elementary Schools, & 2 Ed. Centers
Voting precincts – September 1, 2023	107, plus 1 central absentee precinct
Registered voters – September 1, 2023	291,756
Local electoral districts (includes at-large)	9

Based on FY 2024 Adopted Budget estimates as FY 2024 actuals are not available at this time. Subject to change.

PRIORITY STATEMENTS



The following areas are the Board of Supervisors' overarching priorities for 2024 related to transportation, land use, taxing authority, human services, and state funding. The Board supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule, and legislation maintaining and enhancing local authority and autonomy in matters including land use and procurement. The County opposes legislation that erodes local authority.

TRANSPORTATION

The County supports increased state funding for road construction, road maintenance, transit operations and capital costs, including providing adequate funding to pave higher volume unpaved roads and adequately maintain rural roads. The continued economic vitality of the region and the quality of life of its citizens require greater state investment in transportation infrastructure, and existing revenue sources are not adequate to keep pace with the County's transportation needs. Continued lack of appropriate state funding for our transportation system imposes a tax on our citizens in the form of time wasted sitting in congestion and longer commutes, and it serves as a disincentive for businesses to locate or expand in the area.

The County seeks support and commitment from the state to provide adequate resources for completing projects, and to look at streamlining regulatory reviews and processes needed to reduce timelines and costs. Projects prioritized by the Board as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Adopted Budget and FY Amended FY 2023 – FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program, which require state resources, can be found in Appendix I.

Further, current toll prices and practices affiliated with the Dulles Greenway are discouraging use of the toll road, causing congestion on alternate routes within the local road network. The Board supports legislative measures and funding that reduces costs for Greenway users and improves the road network that serves or will serve as alternatives to the Greenway, including roads such as Shellhorn Road, Prentice Drive, and Westwind Drive that would significantly reduce congestion and provide viable, cost-efficient, east-west routes for Loudoun commuters.

2024 TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

1. Support legislation that will restore funding levels for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) that existed prior to June 2018. Protect all revenues of NVTA that have been provided through legislation from 2013 to present and the provisions therein.
2. Support legislation and funding necessary to sustain investments in transit and keep transit systems in a state of good repair, including maintaining dedicated funding for Metro and identifying sustainable and dedicated funding for transit needs. Oppose any legislation that would shift the Commonwealth's responsibility for transit funding to localities or regions.
3. Support increased funding for Smart Scale that adequately addresses the transportation needs of the Commonwealth. Provide greater flexibility to accelerate Smart Scale funding for projects that progress more quickly.

PRIORITY STATEMENTS

LAND USE

The County supports maintaining its existing statutory authority in the area of land use and development. The ability to adequately plan, zone, and enforce land use regulations is necessary to maintain the quality of life in our communities and an environment that encourages businesses to invest in the County. The County is opposed to legislative measures that erode local land use authority.

2024 LAND USE PRIORITY ON PROFFERS/IMPACT FEES

The County will advocate the following principles on proffers and impact fees:

1. A one-size-fits-all approach for calculating impacts of development will not work in the Commonwealth. Localities need flexibility to address critical infrastructure needs that result from growth, which varies across the Commonwealth.
2. Consideration of impact fees for residential development must include retaining (non-cash) proffer authority for localities to address development impacts other than those of capital construction.
3. Localities must retain the option to adopt cash proffers and impact fees, with each being applicable to different scenarios (e.g. rezonings v. by-right); In other words, localities should not be stripped of cash proffer authority in exchange for impact fee authority.
4. Mitigating the capital expenses generated by residential growth should be done in an equitable way, with both by-right and rezoned properties bearing a fair share of the cost driven by new construction of homes.
5. Legislation allowing for impact fees could include a method or framework for how localities must calculate fees that accurately reflect the true impact of development in each locality. However, legislation should not impose arbitrary impact fee schedules or statutory caps.

TAXING AUTHORITY

The County supports keeping its existing taxing authority. Loudoun is heavily reliant on the real and business personal property tax for computer equipment to fund necessary public operations, from schools and parks to public safety. Reducing or eliminating the few other local revenue resources/options, such as Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL), business personal property or machinery and tools taxes, would only put greater pressure on property owners and the real property tax.

PRIORITY STATEMENTS

HUMAN SERVICES

Loudoun County is committed to creating a healthy, thriving, safe and inclusive community. Loudoun County is committed to improving health and wellness outcomes for vulnerable or underserved members of the community by closing critical service gaps and improving accessibility for all people in the Loudoun community. Loudoun County and its community partners desire to work in partnership with the Commonwealth to meet current and growing needs in an equitable manner and to maintain the quality, capacity, and delivery of services for an increasingly diverse population with considerations specific to vulnerable people. The Commonwealth, as a partner to the County, has a responsibility to provide the necessary funding for localities to meet state mandates and to ensure available resources for individuals to get the services they need. Providing adequate state funding through population- or incidence-based metrics allows the County to focus local funds on building community capacity and providing local partners with resources they need to maintain services. As a partner, it is important for state agencies to have clear communication with local governments when decisions at the state level will impact the local level.

2024 HUMAN SERVICES PRIORITIES

Prioritizing the Availability of Psychiatric Beds: The lack of public (and private) psychiatric beds has a significant impact on the community. When such beds are unavailable, conditions are created that adversely impact public safety, law enforcement, health and human services, and hospital emergency departments. People who need psychiatric treatment remain in an emergency department for days, which requires law enforcement to stay with them as health and human services professionals work to identify placement. Individuals boarding in the emergency department due to lack of psychiatric beds are at risk of not receiving appropriate treatment, eloping before a psychiatric hospital is located, and remaining in the emergency room after ordered to involuntary hospitalization. The County supports the following legislative and funding initiatives to alleviate state hospital pressures and ensure individuals that need more intensive services get the help they need:

- **Expand community-based crisis programs** to align with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care¹. This practice requires mobile crisis response and development of Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Centers (CRSC), which provide 23-hour assessment recliners² and short-term crisis stabilization beds.³
- **Fully fund the mandates** that have already been levied including System Transformation, Excellence and Performance (STEP-VA), Marcus Alert, and access to Uniform Preadmission Screening Certified Clinicians via Emergency Services.

¹The model aims to address the behavioral health crisis needs of anyone, anywhere, anytime and to reduce the reliance on law enforcement in situations where behavioral health services are required. SAMHSA's guidelines include identifying: (1) someone to talk to, (2) someone to respond, and (3) some where to go.

²Recliners are used for individuals to sit down during an assessment.

³This facility is also listed as a funding priority for human services.

PRIORITY STATEMENTS



HUMAN SERVICES

- **Invest in community capacity for non-crisis services**, including evidence-based practices in prevention, outpatient therapy, residential treatment, and permanent supportive housing. This includes targeting grants to localities to develop and support mental health support services, group homes, and other specialized 24/7 supervised residential treatment programs.
- **Assess the judiciary's role** by supporting a study that looks at the release process for those in the hospital under not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) status. The County also supports efforts to increase the number of court-appointed attorneys who assist in civil commitment hearings, including but not limited to, increasing their reimbursement rate. As new mental health and crisis stabilization programs open, there are additional locations hosting civil commitment hearings and additional demand on the judiciary roles to increasingly respond to multiple hearing locations.

Address immediate need for recruiting and retaining health and human services professionals at the state and local levels: Both public (and private) health and human services systems across the Commonwealth cite workforce shortages as a primary challenge for service delivery. The workforce challenges include the ability to retain trained staff and recruit new staff. Funding is required to support the development of a workforce pipeline and progressive development for any workforce member across health and human services.

Modernize Health and Human Services Electronic Systems and Processes: Regulatory barriers, inability to share client information across agencies, and duplicative data entry systems are increasing the cost of delivering services.

- Develop statewide health information exchange platforms and legislative changes that eliminate unnecessary and duplicative transactional data entry.
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers, as the current state-required professional licensing, certification, and credentialing processes are time intensive and administratively burdensome. Public sector workforce challenges are exacerbated by the additional regulatory requirements (e.g. Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services (DBHDS) mandated training, Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP) clinical supervision requirements), and these requirements produce staff inefficiencies in the public sector that are not experienced in the private sector. The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services' (DMAS) Managed Care Organizations (MCO), each require credentialing and registrations, which slow the process for bringing new staff onboard. Loudoun County requests a legislative approach to reduce regulatory/administrative burdens specific to credentialing. Decreasing public sector regulatory requirements comes at no financial cost to the state.

Eliminate Priority 1 Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Waiting List: The DD waiver program provides individual supports and service options for successful and integrated living, learning, physical and behavioral health, employment, recreation, and community inclusion. Of the almost 15,000 individuals on the waiting list, 3,307 are considered priority 1 and have been determined to need services within one year, representing the most urgent service needs. The County supports funding the new biennium budget to eliminate the Priority 1 DD waiver waiting list.

PRIORITY STATEMENTS

HUMAN SERVICES

MARCUS-Alert System: The MARCUS-Alert system, mandated by the state, requires additional resources to implement care teams throughout the region. Region 2 estimates it will cost at least \$9,300,000 to implement mobile response or community care teams in Northern Virginia. The County wants to see the Commonwealth increase appropriations to the MARCUS-Alert System so that the Community Service Boards (CSBs) can adequately provide needed community-based services.

Increase Opportunities for Attainable Housing: The Loudoun County Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, adopted on September 8, 2021, defines how the County will address unmet housing needs in a strategic and systematic way over the short- and long-term. The 2040 attainable housing goals call for 16,000 attainable housing units, 8,200 new home construction units and 7,800 to be comprised of existing homes made attainable through preservation and/or access strategies. The County supports legislative, administrative, and budgetary efforts that increase opportunities within Loudoun for attainable and workforce housing, including but not limited to, state-administered programs and funds such as Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, rental housing, Resources Enabling Affordable Community Housing program (REACH), and the Housing Trust Fund. The County also supports funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and mental health support services needed to maintain stability for individuals within the community. The County opposes efforts that would decrease opportunities for and pose barriers to affordable housing development in the County. Additionally, the County supports strategies for increasing tenant protections (including rent stabilization, rent increase notifications, limiting evictions for just causes, and right to counsel for households facing eviction), giving authority to localities to enforce a landlord's duty to maintain rental dwellings in a fit and habitable condition, and creating a separate affordable housing property tax classification for multi-family and congregate affordable properties.

PRIORITY STATEMENTS

HUMAN SERVICES

Replacement and Updates to State Supported Computer Systems: Allocate resources to upgrade or replace state-supported computer systems needed to maintain records and reports in support of federal and state law.

- **Replacement of Virginia's Child Welfare Case Management System:** The Online Automated Services Information System (OASIS), created in the late 1990s, is used by local departments of social services to automate processes and information associated with child welfare programs. OASIS impedes local departments' ability to document services provided to children and families as the child welfare system shifts to a new model of trauma-informed and evidence-based services provision under the Family First Preventions Services Act (FFPSA) that was implemented on July 1, 2021. Virginia cannot meet federal requirements using the OASIS system, unless significant investments are made. The County supports replacement of OASIS with a new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System that meets federal requirements.
- **Replacement of the Virginia Case Management System (VaCMS):** The VaCMS supports the Child Care Subsidy Program, Medicaid eligibility, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW), and the three Energy Assistance Programs (EAP) components. Approximately 6,000 local department of social services workers use the system to determine eligibility and provide case management. The Virginia Case Management System (VaCMS) has significant limitations and issues; it is outdated, and lacks the necessary technological advancements to handle the demands of modern eligibility processing effectively. This obsolescence has resulted in frequent system outages, disrupted service delivery, and impacts the timely provision of benefits to eligible individuals and families. Replacing VaCMS with a modern and robust system that can seamlessly integrate with the evolving state and federal requirements will address the system's shortcomings and ensure improved service delivery to those reliant on Public Assistance Programs. By replacing the outdated VaCMS with a modernized and more advanced alternative, several benefits can be realized:
 1. Enhanced Reliability: Mitigating frequent outages, ensuring uninterrupted service provision to beneficiaries and minimizing disruptions caused by system failures.
 2. Improved Policy Adaptation: Facilitating seamless integration of policy changes, significantly reducing the time and costs associated with re-programming efforts and enabling the efficient implementation of new eligibility criteria.
 3. Enhanced User Experience: Empowering staff to work more efficiently, leading to faster eligibility determinations and reduced administrative burdens. This, in turn, will improve overall service quality and responsiveness.
 4. Long-Term Cost Savings: Modernizing the system will reduce maintenance costs, decrease re-programming expenses, and improve operational efficiency, leading to long-term cost savings.

Replacing the outdated VaCMS is imperative to ensure efficient and reliable eligibility determination for Public Assistance Programs and to comply with state and federal mandates.

PRIORITY STATEMENTS



STATE FUNDING

The County supports the state honoring its financial commitments in the areas of public education, public safety, transportation and road maintenance, and health and human services, and opposes state-imposed mandates on the County that increase County operational and capital costs and/or are inadequately funded by the state. The state also has a responsibility to provide adequate appropriations to the Compensation Board to properly staff and fund the offices of constitutional officers. The County also supports adequate and competitive compensation for state-supported employees, which is needed to retain quality employees in the Northern Virginia region. The County opposes state budget cuts that are passed on to the localities, and formulaic budget changes that could negatively impact the County.

2024 STATE FUNDING PRIORITIES (IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE)

1. Support operational funding and start-up funding for construction, design, and equipment costs of Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Center (CRSC) services. Support the Northern Virginia CSBs request that the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) fund a regional full-time position⁴ serving Region 2 to enhance workforce education, training, and recruitment.
2. Support restoring funding to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) that existed prior to June 2018. Protect all revenues of NVTa that have been provided through legislation from 2013 to present and the provisions therein.
3. Support funding to adequately meet the current charges of the Community Service Boards (CSBs), including those mandated through the STEP-VA program.
4. Support additional appropriations for Medicaid waiver slots needed to eliminate the statewide waiting list.
5. Support increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for early intervention case management services equal to intellectual disability and mental health case management rates.
6. Support full funding of the Northern Virginia cost of competing for teachers and support staff.
7. Support additional appropriations by the state that adequately address the management of body-worn cameras and footage, including ongoing funding for additional positions in the Commonwealth's Attorney's office.
8. Support additional appropriations for adequately funding the judicial and corrections system, including public defenders and jail per diems, that are the responsibility of the state.
9. Support funding for the Northern Virginia Science Center.
10. Support additional funding for the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) operations that support local land use review and appropriate road maintenance, including dedicated funding for improved rural road maintenance, repaving, stormwater management, and mowing and cleaning of medians and rights-of-way on major state roads.
11. Support funding necessary to sustain investments in transit and keep transit systems in a state of good repair, including securing dedicated funding for Metrorail and sustainable and dedicated funding for transit needs. Oppose any legislation that would shift the Commonwealth's responsibility for transit funding to localities or regions.
12. Support funding for the Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program.
13. Support additional appropriations to local offices of the Virginia Cooperative Extension focused on developing and implementing education programs, encouraging community equity, and improving residents' awareness of food systems.
14. Support increased funding for state-supported land conservation funds, tax credits, and grant programs.
15. Support an amendment that allows a locality to assess a local plan and specification fee and annual permit fee for hotels, campgrounds, summer camps, and restaurants equal to the fee charged by the state.

⁴Regional FTE located at the regional projects office. Region 2 consists of the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County.

LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVES



LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

The following legislative initiatives have been identified by the Board of Supervisors for pursuit of specific state legislative actions in 2024, as appropriate.

1. **Rent Stabilization and Rent Increase Notification:** Seeking legislation that would stabilize year-over-year rent increases by establishing a maximum rate of growth and a requirement for a notice before issuing an increase in rent above a certain percentage.
2. **(New) Job Order Contracting (JOC) Limit Amendments:** Seeking legislation on job order contracting to increase the per-project limit to exceed \$500,000 and increase the annual contract maximum to exceed \$6 million.
3. **(New) Change of Time Requirements on Public Notices:** Seeking legislation that amends public notice requirements to allow local governing bodies in the Commonwealth more flexibility as it pertains to actions or intended actions by the local governing body.

ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVES

The following address state policy initiatives of importance to the County.

Utility Identification and Relocation: Work with agencies such as the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to address issues related to identification of companies/utilities placing fiber optics and other utilities in and outside the right-of-way, and establish a timeframe by which fiber and other utilities must be moved for construction projects, or otherwise help to resolve these matters of delay.



POLICY STATEMENTS



The following policy statements address state legislative and policy issues of importance to the County.

ANIMAL SERVICES

Dog and Cat License Fees: Support legislation amending state law to allow local dog/cat license fees to be set at a “fair and reasonable” level by the locality, instead of current law that limits the fee to no more than \$10. Support amendments to state law to allow local treasurers to use a portion of the dog/cat license fees they collect to go towards the cost of processing and administering those fees.

Pet Reunification: Support legislation amending state law to permit certified animal control officers to administer microchips as part of a locally-sanctioned pet reunification initiative.

Statewide Dog Licensing Model: Support the existing authority of localities to administer their own companion animal licensing programs and oppose any legislation that would limit that authority.

Statewide Mandate on Disposition of Animals: Support existing reporting requirements of releasing agencies in Virginia and oppose any legislation that would limit the authority of localities in determining disposition of animals in their custody.

BROADBAND

Broadband and Cellular Coverage and Availability: Support expanding affordable broadband accessibility and cellular service throughout the Commonwealth, particularly in underserved and rural areas while preserving local land use, permitting fees, and other local authority.



POLICY STATEMENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth Opportunity Fund: Support the ongoing replenishment of the Commonwealth Opportunity Fund. Consider industry-specific criteria for minimum project capital investment, job creation, and wage requirements (i.e. a new company may significantly exceed capital investment but lag on job numbers in a capital-intensive industry or may have lower capital investment due to being small but growing in a less capital-intensive industry).

Discretionary Incentives: Support economic development incentives that fund job creation and business development in Virginia and consider changes to job creation requirements that apply during tight labor market conditions for incentives including:

- Go Virginia Funding: Support continued funding for Region 7 and regional Go Virginia grants which advocate private-sector growth and job creation through increased collaboration between businesses, education and community leaders. Strongly encourage immediate action for clearly defined application and administrative Region 7 web updates to develop maximum business engagement.
- Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund: Support continued AFID grants for new or expanded processing/value-added facilities and continue streamlining the process for application and receipt.
- Major Eligible Employer Grant (MEE) and Virginia Economic Development Incentive Grant (VEDIG) Programs: Continue to provide funding for attraction of major employers in Virginia where there is out-of-state competition.
- Virginia Investment Performance (VIP) Grant: Strongly support ongoing funding for existing Virginia highly specialized manufacturing companies that are expanding, innovating, or modernizing.
- Income/Sales and Use Tax Incentives: Continue to fund income tax credits and subtractions for investments. Oppose elimination of incentives, in particular the Data Center Retail Sales and Use Tax exemption.
- State Funding Programs: Support state organizations such as the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation that fund technology startups through gap funds and research funds.
- Technology Zones: Support the County's ability to establish technology zones to encourage growth in targeted industries.

Housing Options: Support efforts to assist communities in the development of desirable and attainable housing stock for all segments of the local workforce.

Washington Dulles International Airport: Support funding for operations at Washington Dulles International Airport and related businesses.

- Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ): Continue to allow businesses to defer paying duties on imported goods while they are held with FTZ.

Workforce Development: Support investment which provides skilled workforce development, training, education, data research and technology as essential components of sustained economic development.

- Virginia Jobs Investment Program: Support state-level customized recruiting and training assistance to companies that are creating new jobs or experiencing technological change.
- Incumbent Worker Training Initiative of Northern Virginia: Promote and support the initiative, which provides employee skill upgrades in industry-recognized IT and cybersecurity training and certifications attainment.
- FastForward Grant Program: Continue to support and promote opportunities for training through Virginia's community colleges and other higher education centers to earn industry-endorsed certifications and licenses in high-demand fields.
- Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Employment Grant Program: Continue funding to support hiring veterans at small and medium-sized businesses that are certified by Virginia's V3 program.

POLICY STATEMENTS



EDUCATION

Hold Harmless Enrollment Funding: Support a funding model that does not penalize school divisions for reductions in enrollment due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Enact JLARC Recommendations to Improve the State Public Education Funding Model: Support full state funding for public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC).

Out-of-State Enrollment in State Institutions of Higher Education: Support legislation requiring the state's institutions of higher education to maintain undergraduate enrollment ratios of no greater than 25% out-of-state students. Further, support legislation to enforce such standards with financial or other disincentives.

Relax and Fully Fund State Mandates: Support full funding of state mandates. Support relaxing state mandates and increasing local autonomy to give local school divisions the flexibility to efficiently target resources where they are most needed.

School Construction Support: Support additional new state revenues to assist localities to fund new school construction, renovation of public school facilities, safety improvements, technology infrastructure and debt service.

Teacher Pensions: Support legislation to require the state to place its share of teacher pension liabilities on its financial statements.

Year-End-Funds Appropriated to School Divisions: Support existing state law that all year-end funds appropriated to the school divisions by local governing bodies revert to the locality, retaining discretion with the governing bodies to evaluate and approve the reallocations of year-end fund balances to address the capital or onetime expenditure requirements of local school districts.

Free Meals in Schools: Support legislation to implement free meals in schools for families, including but not limited to expanding existing programs and eligibility requirements.

Unlawful Hazing: Support increasing penalties for individuals found to be involved in unlawful acts of hazing and safe harbor for those who report such acts in good faith at nonprofit private institutions of higher education and any public institutions of higher education.

ELECTIONS

Automatic Vote-By-Mail: Support legislation that allows every voter in Virginia to receive a mail-in ballot by default and whereby voters may submit completed ballots by mail or deposit them in designated drop boxes, but does not preclude voting in person and/or early in person.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests: Support guidance and/or clarification from the state on what can be released under FOIA.

Local Election Districts and Precinct Boundaries: Support legislation that allows subdivision boundaries shown on an official map of the County to constitute a "clearly observable boundary" for the purpose of constituting a district or precinct boundary.

Polling Locations: Oppose legislation that would remove schools as a polling location for elections.

Restoration of Voting Rights: Support a constitutional amendment that automatically reinstates voting rights after a convicted felon is free from any term of incarceration.

Return of Marked Ballots: Support legislation that allows for a voter to return a ballot for other members of the same household.

Sharing Jury Data for List Maintenance Purposes: Support legislation that allows the sharing of information obtained by the Clerk of the Circuit Court from those persons not qualified to serve as jurors on the basis of citizenship with the General Registrar to initiate list maintenance procedures pursuant to current law.

POLICY STATEMENTS



EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation Medical Services Fee Schedule: Support a thorough review of the existing fee schedule to ensure more uniformity and predictability in the rates.

Expanded Benefits: Oppose any legislation mandating new and/or expanded benefits on local governments that are not fully funded in perpetuity by the state, and oppose new or expanded employment benefits for public employees and/or volunteers unless a local option is provided.

Line of Duty Act: Support efforts to revert the cost and administration of this long-time program back to the state. However, should localities continue to be required to pay these benefits, the County should support efforts to contain the costs associated with the program and to limit the benefit costs being charged to the County by the state.

Non-Discrimination in Public Employment: Support legislation that provides additional state protections for veteran status and marital status for non-discrimination in public employment.

Workers' Compensation: Encourage and support a detailed review by the legislature of the current presumptions under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act and support non-Hodgkin's lymphoma to be added to the presumption list as found in Virginia Code §65.2-402.

Virginia Retirement System: Support adding 911 dispatchers (LCFR, LCSO and Animal Services) to the list of local employees eligible to receive enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service similar to those provided to state police officers if the local employer elects to offer enhanced retirement benefits. Under current law, localities may provide such benefits to first responders, including firefighters and emergency medical technicians, and certain other hazardous duty positions but not 911 dispatchers.

PTSD Coverage for 911 Dispatchers: Support adding 911 dispatchers to the PTSD coverage under Title 65.2. Workers' Compensation » Chapter 1. Definitions and General Provisions » § 65.2-107. Post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters. Dispatchers are at risk for PTSD the same as firefighters, volunteers, and law enforcement officers. Studies have shown that the rate of PTSD across emergency dispatch personnel to be between 18% and 24%.

POLICY STATEMENTS



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Agritourism Buildings and Structures: The County recognizes the importance of rural businesses to the economy of the County, and the important role of public safety in ensuring the protection of their patrons. The County strongly supports legislation that clearly defines agritourism buildings or structures, specifies the agency that determines if structures meet the criteria for classification as agritourism structures, provides expectations for public safety as it relates to assembly within those structures, and allows for enforcement of operational aspects of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code in farm buildings used for agritourism. The County supports educating owners of such structures on operational components, such as those found in the Loudoun County Fire and Life Safety Code. The County supports legislation that provides for safety features in the Code of Virginia that promote minimum life safety standards in portions of agritourism buildings or structures primarily used for gatherings of 50 or more persons. Minimum safety features supported by the County, and that would assist in getting patrons out of buildings or structures quickly, include:

- Requirements for two remote outward swinging doors with panic hardware, emergency lights, and exit signs on designated emergency exits.
- Portable fire extinguishers for the purpose of fire suppression.
- A manual unmonitored fire alarm system with pull stations.
- A fire evacuation plan.

Coordination of State, County and Courts Holiday Schedules: Support legislation to provide for a uniform approach to holidays in Virginia where there is consistency between the courts, the Governor, and local governments.

Excess Court Fees: Support legislation that returns the majority of excess court fees formula back to the original one-third for the Commonwealth and two-thirds for the locality. Support and/or seek legislation that would make this change only applicable to the 20th Judicial Circuit (in addition to the 31st Judicial Circuit, the only circuit that was exempted from this state formula change).

Increased Pay for Court-Appointed Counsel: Support legislation and/or budget agreements that increase the statutory payment limits and waiver payment limits within Va. Code § 19.2-163 for court-appointed counsel and the rate of pay for guardians ad litem.

Increase Fees for the Legal Resource Center: Support legislation that amends Virginia Code §42.1-70 to allow a governing body to increase the assessment for civil actions filed in the courts by \$1 to pay for expenses related to a law library.

New State Mandates and Shifting Responsibility to Localities: Oppose any new state mandates that are not fully funded by the Commonwealth and oppose the shifting of fiscal responsibility from the state to localities for existing programs.

Residential PACE Program: Support legislation that amends §15.2-958.3 of the Code of Virginia to allow a locality by ordinance to authorize a residential PACE program.

Waste Reduction: Support any efforts by the Commonwealth to expand the mission, scope, and resources (e.g., funding, staffing, etc.) of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's waste reduction and recycling programs especially those that encourage regional planning, recyclable and organics market development and that result in DEQ being more actively engaged in waste reduction matters in the Commonwealth.

Permitting Government Entities to Have a Designated Representative Attend Trial: Support amendments to VA. Code § 8.01-375 to afford counties and their governing bodies the right to have a designated representative at trial consistent with the rights of every other civil litigant in the Commonwealth.

POLICY STATEMENTS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Children's Services Act (CSA): Support state funding and certain programmatic changes, including but not limited to:

- Support for the state to sufficiently fund the state share of cost for services to children and youth who are entitled to sum-sufficient services, and support equitable cost-sharing between the state and the County for the costs involved in the placements of children in residential treatment facilities for non-educational purposes.
- Support increased state resources to address increased and complex CSA administration requirements by the state of the local governments.
- Fully fund the cost of advancement and development of evidence-based practices and implementation across the System of Care.
- Support state assistance to localities with contracting for CSA services to improve localities' ability to negotiate with providers of those serviced, such as private day placements. Support rate setting by the state for private day placements, with appropriate recognition of cost variations by region.
- Support enhancing the ability of local school divisions to serve children with disabilities, to include flexibility in use of state pool funds to serve children with high-level needs in local or regional programs tailored to meet those needs, and additional support for special education wraparound services to help support children in their communities.
- The state should assist localities in providing appropriate services and settings for adolescents and children with extraordinary behavioral health needs in need of residential placement not anticipated by the CSA law.
- Oppose changes to CSA law, regulation or policies that bypass the Family Assessment and Planning Team and Community Policy and Management Team role in determining appropriate Residential Treatment Facility placements for which CSA funds will be sought.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T): Support state funding and certain programmatic change, including but not limited to:

- Support sufficient state funding for the Commonwealth's Workforce Development System as planning is underway to make SNAP E&T Services mandatory for all local jurisdictions. This is a multi-component employment and training program designed to assist SNAP recipients in their employment and training needs. The goal of SNAP E&T is to assist SNAP recipients with opportunities that will lead to paid employment and decrease dependency on assistance programs.
- Support increased State resources to address staffing needs as SNAP E&T will now include services to all at-risk Able Body Adults With Dependents (ABAWD).
- Oppose mandating changes to SNAP E&T programming without providing sufficient personnel and resources to manage increases in caseloads as Loudoun County, which is currently exempt from the work requirement, will be required to meet the at-risk ABAWD work requirement by working to develop an appropriate employment and training program and resources.

POLICY STATEMENTS



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Decrease Incarceration Rates for Mentally Ill Populations: Support additional funding, resources, or legislative changes that decrease incarceration rates for mentally ill populations.

Lyme Disease: Support state administrative, budget, or legislative action beneficial or necessary for the diagnosis, treatment, and/or prevention of Lyme disease, except in areas where they become unfunded mandates on localities.

Inmate Behavioral Health Services: Oppose legislation and unfunded mandates that require Community Service Boards (CSBs) and localities to be responsible for service delivery for every inmate with a behavioral health condition at any severity level, including every clinical intervention. The County is charged with addressing serious mental illness in priority populations, which does not include every behavioral health condition or every clinical intervention.

State Income Tax Credits for Accessible Units: Support increasing the total amount of state income tax credits granted for the Livable Home Tax Credit program in any given fiscal year from \$1 million to \$2 million and increase the total amount of state income tax credits made available through the program allocated for the purchase or construction of new residences from \$500,000 to \$1 million and funds allocated for retrofitting or renovation of existing residences from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Universal Child Care: Support legislation that creates a universal child care program or expands upon existing programs that support child care such as but not limited to the Virginia Head Start State Collaboration Project, the Child Care Subsidy Program, and the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI).

Enforcement of the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act: Support legislation that gives authority to localities to enforce the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (VRLTA).

Transparency in Renting and Evictions: Support measures that increase transparency in renting and evictions.

Expand public access and transparency by allowing electronic (all-virtual) meetings for advisory boards and commissions, with no restrictions on the number of meetings per year.

Increase from five to 14 days the mandatory waiting period, after a landlord serves the tenant in writing of nonpayment of rent, before the landlord may begin the judicial eviction process.

Require guardians and conservators to complete initial and ongoing training as a condition of their service; and direct the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), with input from the Virginia Judicial System, to develop such training.

POLICY STATEMENTS



LAND USE, ZONING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Alternative Onsite Sewage Systems: Oppose legislation that further restricts local authority in this area.

Conditional Zoning (Cash and In-Kind Proffers): Support local authority to accept cash and in-kind proffers from developers to assist localities in financing the capital facilities and infrastructure needed to serve new development and oppose legislation to eliminate or restrict that authority.

Connection Fees: Support the existing authority of localities or locally created authorities to impose connection fees and rates adequate to support the full cost of water, wastewater, and stormwater utility systems, and oppose any legislation that would limit that authority.

Erosion and Sediment Control/Stormwater Management: Oppose legislation that reduces or eliminates local authority in the areas of erosion and sediment control and stormwater management.

Impact Fees: Support proposals that establish impact fees and reasonable implementation processes applicable in areas of the County where rezonings are not anticipated or where the provision of improvements and facilities through proffers associated with rezonings for new residential development is restricted by the Code of Virginia.

Local Authority Enhancement: Support, generally, the granting of additional land use, zoning and property maintenance authority to localities, especially for aging areas or underutilized areas likely to redevelop due to high rates of sustained growth as a means to address the fiscal burdens experienced by localities in providing needed public services to local residents.

Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems: Oppose legislation that limits the ability of localities to create or enforce local ordinances or fees established to best meet the needs of their jurisdictions in the area of onsite sewage disposal systems.

Payments in Lieu of Facility Contributions: Support any and all legislation to allow for cash contributions to be made by developers in lieu of improvements otherwise required by ordinances or identified in the County's Capital Needs Assessment and/or Capital Improvements Plan

Chesapeake Bay TMDL Funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices and other Cost-Sharing Programs: Support efforts to increase state appropriations for cost-sharing programs, including but not limited to the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund (VNRCF) and the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF). The VNRCF and SLAF support Virginia agricultural cost-share programs and water quality improvement projects including installation of cost-effective best management practices that are necessary to meet Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements and local pollution reduction goals.

Prescriptive Easements: Support legislation that permits collocation of telecommunications facilities on electric utility poles maintained by prescriptive easement.

Reduce State Share of Permit Fee: Support a reduction in the Commonwealth of Virginia's current 28% portion of the Stormwater Management Programs permit fee, since the County, not the state, is predominantly administering the program locally.

Short-Term Rentals: Support efforts that preserve local land use and taxation authority while requiring transparency and efficient Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) collections as it relates to the growing short-term rental industry.

State Annual Plan for Utilities: Oppose any proposal to include infrastructure development such as electric substations and similar facilities under the State Annual Plan for Utilities.

Undergrounding Electric Distribution, or "Feeder" Lines: Support legislation which increases and/or promotes the number of underground electric distribution, or "feeder" lines in addition to the pilot programs for long-range transmission lines.

POLICY STATEMENTS



PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Medical Transport: Support policies to protect consumers who require air ambulance services. Oppose proposals that would add additional legal and administrative burdens on local first responders regarding decisions about methods of transportation in emergency situations.

Fire Sprinklers in New Residential Construction: Support action by the Board of Housing and Community Development and/or enabling legislation by the Virginia General Assembly to enable local governing bodies the ability to self-determine the appropriate regulations or codified ordinances for residential sprinkler requirements for their localities.

In-Building Emergency Communications Coverage: Support legislation that provides for emergency responder radio coverage to be provided in all new buildings in accordance with Section 510 of the International Fire Code.

Mobile Fueling: Oppose any legislation that seeks to expand “on-time” delivery of gasoline (mobile fueling) until additional, and omitted safety measures may be adopted and implemented. These safety measures must pertain to spill prevention and mitigation at mobile sites, vapor reduction, and control of ignition sources of gasoline vapors before mobile fueling is considered.

New State Traffic Infraction: Support legislation that creates a new state traffic offense to allow law enforcement officers to charge drivers with traffic infractions where the level of culpability does not warrant a charge of reckless driving.

Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC): Oppose any action by the Board of Housing and Community Development or the General Assembly to approve or enact any edits or re-writes to the SFPC or any other law or regulation which could reduce or eliminate local fire prevention requirements or remove life safety authority from fire marshals and their assistants. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Consumer Fireworks:** Oppose any action that would expand the sale, possession, and use of consumer fireworks without the provisions to assure compliance with related National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards, which contain minimal fire and life safety provisions for all consumer fireworks. Injuries and deaths from fireworks occur annually.
- **Binary Exploding Targets:** Support action that would expand the enforcement of binary exploding targets to include local law enforcement.

Transfer Authority of Promulgation of Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC): Support legislation which effectively transfers authority for the promulgation of the SFPC from the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development (VaBHCD) to the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB).

School Safety: Oppose any legislation that weakens the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and/or the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code that promotes fire and life safety of our schools to protect the safety of our children. The County discourages any deactivation, tampering, or modification of fire alarm systems and associated life-safety and egress components or systems and recommends strict compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards 72 and 25. In addition, emergency planning and preparation activities such as fire safety, lockdown drills and plans, and emergency evacuation drills should be conducted as recommended by the International Fire Code. The County recommends methods such as scheduling fire drills and sharing them in advance with staff/authorized persons.

Use of Tolls by Emergency Management Personnel: Support legislation that adds emergency management personnel to the list of officer and employees under Virginia Code §33.2-613 allowed to use toll facilities without payment in the performance of their official duties.

POLICY STATEMENTS

TAX AND REVENUE

Personal Property Tax on Computer Equipment for Data Centers and Real Property Tax Assessment Methodology for Data Centers: The state should not reduce local tax authority for business personal property tax on computer equipment for data centers. The state should not prescribe changes through legislation, or other means to methodologies used by local governments for the assessment of real property for data centers about furnishings and fixtures, any improvements (buildings or systems), or land. *In Loudoun County alone, the assessed value of personal property for computer equipment in data centers is estimated to be \$12.0 billion for Tax Year 2022, and the assessed value of real property for data centers is \$11.8 billion for Tax Year 2022. Local taxing and assessment authority for business revenue should be maintained for localities especially when the state has reduced its funding commitments to public education, human services, and other state-responsible, but locally administered programs. Efforts to reduce these local sources of revenue simply puts even more pressure on property owners through the local real estate tax and other revenue enhancements.

* The Board of Supervisors supported legislation in 2022 that provided uniformity and consistency for the data center industry across the Commonwealth but also requested delayed implementation.

Communications Sales and Use Tax (CSUT): Support efforts to increase the amount of revenue received from the Communications Sales and Use Tax (CSUT), including efforts to update the tax to reflect the modern telecommunications landscape. Oppose diversion of Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund dollars beyond the uses already specified in statute, and support efforts to address budget language that would divert CSUT funds to the state General Fund.

Disabled Veterans' Real Property Tax Exemption: Support legislation that clarifies Virginia Code with respect to the maximum number of disabled veterans' real property tax exemptions per parcel and allows localities to grant exemptions for multiple residential units or dwellings on one parcel where there is one unrelated qualifying disabled veteran per unit. **Disabled Veterans' Personal Property Designated Vehicle Change:** Support legislation that gives authority to localities to adopt an ordinance to allow 100% service-connected disabled veterans who qualify for tax exemption on a designated vehicle to change which currently owned vehicle is designated for the exemption.

Machinery and Tools (M&T)/Business, Professional Occupational License (BPOL) Taxes: The state should not eliminate these local revenue sources, unless the General Assembly provides reliable replacement sources of revenue for localities. In Loudoun County alone, BPOL receipts were \$53.9 million and M&T receipts were \$1.9 million in FY 2023. This revenue should not be unilaterally eliminated especially when the state has reduced its funding commitments to public education, human services, and other state-responsible, but locally administered programs. Eliminating these local sources of revenue simply puts even more pressure on property owners through the local real estate tax.

Presumption of Valuation Established by Locality: Oppose legislation which eliminates requirements that the taxpayer appellant prove manifest error by the locality's Commissioner of the Revenue or real estate assessor as a pre-requisite for the appeal to prevail, in fact voiding the current presumption that the valuation established by the locality is correct.

Release of New Customer Information from Utility Providers: Support legislation to require utility providers to release to local tax authorities' information such as name, address, and date of service for new customers for the purpose of ensuring local personal property tax compliance.

Revenue Sharing with State: Support any state revenue-sharing formula to assist local governments with public infrastructure needs if the formula includes recognition of the needs in high residential growth localities.

Taxation Study: Support either a General Assembly-sponsored, or a Virginia Department of Taxation study to review all local government allocations provided by the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 2006 with the goal of determining allocations that reflect the significantly different distribution of population among jurisdictions since that time.

POLICY STATEMENTS



TRANSPORTATION

Automated High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Enforcement: Support studies and research by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) focused on automated High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) enforcement.

“Devolution” of Secondary Road Maintenance: Oppose any legislative or regulatory moratorium on the transfer of newly constructed secondary roads to VDOT for the purposes of ongoing maintenance, and oppose any legislation that would require the transfer of secondary road construction and maintenance responsibilities to counties.

Traffic Incident Management: Support legislation that would allow traffic incident management vehicles owned or operated by VDOT to use flashing lights and sirens.

Tolls on Dulles Greenway: Support measures and legislation that address increased toll rates on the Dulles Greenway. These would include, but not be limited to, opposing any legislation regarding automatic toll increases, and oppose any extension of the Greenway’s operating license, seeking requirements to deploy distance-based and time-based tolling that materially benefits users, both peak and off peak, prior to any subsequent toll increases, and seeking requirements to deploy additional congestion management improvements beyond those currently required, prior to any subsequent toll increases.

Tolls on I-66: Support any legislative initiative proposed in the 2024 General Assembly Session that would reduce the exorbitant fees levied on the citizens of the Commonwealth, including public safety personnel, with I-66 tolls.

New River Crossing: Support actions for the creation of a new river crossing over the Potomac River, east of Goose Creek.

Virtual Weigh Station Study: Support a study by VDOT and DMV that researches the use of virtual weigh stations for enforcement of over-sized or over-weight vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Bi-County Parkway between Prince William County and Loudoun County: Support the Bi-County Parkway between Prince William and Loudoun Counties as called for in the Loudoun Countywide Transportation Plan. The parkway is needed to foster the region’s economic development, reduce existing traffic congestion and accommodate planned residential growth. In addition, by greatly improving both passenger and commercial cargo access to the Washington Dulles International Airport, the Bi-County Parkway will produce tangible quality of life and economic benefits for the entire Commonwealth.

General Statement on Funding: Support additional state and regional transportation funding for highway; transit, including Metrorail; bicycle and pedestrian; and safety improvements.

Revenue-Sharing Program: Support additional funding and continued use of this program as an effective way to leverage local/state funds and oppose any budget amendment that reduces funding allocations for this program below \$100 million per year.

Virginia Department of Transportation Staffing Levels: Support state funding for providing additional staffing of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) personnel designated for and preferably located in Loudoun County for the purposes of greater efficiency.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM WAS ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 9, 2023
AND AMENDED ON DECEMBER 13, 2023.



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA